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Date April 29, 2004 Page 1 of 20

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SENT BY: Nigel L. Scott, Esquire

SUBJECT: Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

COMMENTS: Attention Harold Smith

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In re: Patent Application of Edward T. Buford, III

Serial No: 09/912,692

Group Art Unit: 3747

Filed: 7/26/2001

Examiner: R. Chin

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20321

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

This is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed March 29, 2004 in respect of the above-identified patent application.

In the underlying Office Action (copy enclosed), the Examiner rejected Claims 1 - 5 and Claim 8. There was no reference to additional claims. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, at paragraph 4 A notes "A complete listing of all of the claims." Applicant, through counsel, asserts that there is an apparent disparity between the Examiner's claim rejection in the Office Action and the matters presented in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. It is apparent that the Examiner and the LIE looked at different files in arriving at their respective actions. Accordingly, it is requested that the matter be clarified at the Office and counsel given an opportunity to respond to the office Action.

Additionally, it is requested that Applicant be afforded additional time to respond so that discrepancies between the Office Action and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment